

Protein Abnormalities: Volume 3

Proteins in Body Fluids, Amino Acids and Tumor Markers. Diagnostic and Clinical Aspects

Edited by S.E. Ritzmann and L.M. Killingsworth

Alan R. Liss; New York, 1983

491 pages. £34.00

This multi-author book is part of a series; volumes 1 and 2 dealt with the physiological, pathological, diagnostic and clinical aspects of the immunoglobulins. This volume is devoted to four areas; the nature and composition of proteins in body fluids other than blood, the oncofetal as well as placental and pregnancy-associated proteins and some tumour markers in human disease. A synopsis of the characteristics of proteins with clinical, diagnostic and disease-monitoring potential is appended.

In spite of the growing importance of this subject in medicine it is surprisingly difficult to obtain data on the occurrence of the various tissue proteins, so I welcome this book as a useful compendium which I am sure will be much used in the laboratories which possess it. The authors write in a factual style which is unlikely to prove attractive to the uninitiated and one could have wished for the inclusion of a little more background science.

The first chapter on the 'Developmental aspects of plasma proteins' is a particularly useful survey and starts with an unusual section on the phylogeny of plasma proteins. There is a useful chapter on the technical aspects of isoelectric focussing. The chapters on the body fluids cover urinary proteins, cerebrospinal fluid, mammary gland, saliva, amniotic fluid, placenta and many others. The section on amino acid disorders, phenylketonuria, etc. is a little unexpected in view of the subject matter of the book as a whole. From my knowledge of various fields, I found the information sound.

The standard of production in terms of print and illustrations are very satisfactory and the price for a compendium of useful information is reasonable.

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